

devoted to this subject, merits special attention. The action of the House in directing that this subject be brought to the notice of the different branches of the organization shows the policy of the Association: that the medical profession shall seek to advance the betterment of conditions under which the people live and labor. This is but one evidence of the earnest thought which is being given to the problems which come before the House of Delegates. The number of important measures which were considered and wisely determined can be appreciated only by a careful reading of the records. The work of the Scientific Assembly—the sections—was good. The programs were excellent, most of the meetings were fairly well attended, and interest was manifested in the papers presented and discussed. The Scientific Exhibit, as always, commanded the interest of the Fellows; not only the excellence of the work displayed but also its practical value to the profession and the clear demonstrations made by those who contributed were frequently commended. The Commercial Exhibit was most creditable and fully deserved the interest manifested by those who visited the booths of the exhibitors. The social events were well planned and carried out. Especially were the excursions enjoyed by those who were able to take advantage of them. The success of Commemoration Day has already been noted. The exposition did not detract from the interest in the work of the Association as might have been expected, but was always available whenever leisure time permitted the Fellows or their ladies to visit it. The members of the local profession exerted themselves with true California hospitality to provide for the comfort and pleasure of the visitors and are to be congratulated on their conduct of the convention. The San Francisco Session was a great success.”—Journal A. M. A.

#### VACATIONS BRING TYPHOID.

##### State Board of Health Issues Warning to Campers.

According to the records of the State Board of Health, most cases of typhoid fever appearing in the large cities during the summer and early autumn are contracted in the country by persons returning from their summer vacations. Fully half of the cases of typhoid fever occurring in San Francisco have been contracted in the country. Insanitary summer resorts and careless campers are largely to blame for the conditions leading to so many cases of typhoid fever. For this reason, the State Board of Health is sending its inspectors out while the season is early, for the purpose of informing the proprietors of summer resorts concerning the State law covering sanitation, to learn the condition of toilets and water supplies and to give all possible information for the prevention of typhoid fever.

Many insanitary health resorts remain undiscovered sources of infection and vacationists cannot observe too great care in the selection of places where they are to spend their vacations. Convalescents from typhoid fever often seek the mountains in order to recuperate. Since many typhoid convalescents become carriers, discharging the infection with the wastes of the body, for weeks, months or years afterward, it can readily be seen that such a carrier may be a source of great danger at a summer resort.

By the middle of July the vacation rush is in full swing. The annual exodus from city to country reaches its maximum at that time. In fact, city physicians are beginning to report cases of typhoid fever in returning vacationists already. As soon as vacations end, typhoid fever begins.

The State Board of Health's records show that August, September and October are the months in which most typhoid cases are reported. The mor-

tality is correspondingly higher during these months, also. It is encouraging, however, to note that there were fewer deaths from typhoid fever during 1914 than for many years previous. It was during 1914 that the State Board of Health started its sanitary inspections and while it cannot be said that the reduced death rate is due to this work, it has no doubt played an important part. The State Board of Health is endeavoring to lower the typhoid rate to a still greater degree and hopes to make 1915 a record year.

#### “ARTICLES OF FAITH” CONCERNING CANCER.\*

##### A Platform Upon Which to Unite in the Campaign of Education.

(1) That the hereditary and congenital acquirement of cancer are subjects which require much more study before any definite conclusions can be formed concerning them, and that, in the light of our present knowledge, they hold no special element of alarm.

(2) That the contagiousness or infectiousness of cancer is far from proved, the evidence to support this theory being so incomplete and inconclusive that the public need have no concern regarding it.

(3) That the communication of cancer from man to man is so rare, if it really occurs at all, that it may be practically disregarded.

(4) That those members of the public in charge of or in contact with sufferers from cancer with external manifestations, or discharges of any kind, need at most take the same precautionary measures as would be adopted in the care of any ulcer or open septic wound.

(5) That in the care of patients with cancer there is much less danger to the attendant from any possible acquirement of cancer than there is of septic infection, or blood poisoning from pus organisms.

(6) That in cancer, as in all other disease, attention to diet, exercise and proper hygienic surroundings is of distinct value.

(7) That, notwithstanding the possibility of underlying general factors, cancer may, for all practical purposes, be at present regarded as local in its beginning.

(8) That, when accessible, it may, in its incipency, be removed so perfectly by radical operation that the chances are overwhelmingly in favor of its non-recurrence.

(9) That, when once it has advanced beyond the stage of cure, suffering in many cases may be palliated and life prolonged by surgical and other means.

(10) That while other methods of treatment may, in some cases, offer hope for the cancer victim, the evidence is conclusive that surgery, for operable cases, affords the surest present means of cure.

(11) That among the many advances in and additions to cancer treatment, the improvements in and extensions of surgical procedure surpass those in any other line, and fully maintain the preeminent position of surgical palliation and cure.

(12) That there is strong reason to believe that the individual risk of cancer can be diminished by the eradication, where such exist, of certain conditions which have come to be regarded as predisposing factors in its production.

(13) That some occupations, notably working in pitch, tar, paraffin, anilin or soot, and with X-rays, if not safeguarded, are conducive to the production of cancer, presumably on account of the chronic irritation or inflammation caused.

(14) That prominent among these predisposing